

USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



News Letter

Vol. II, No. 13

February 2008

Reunion 2008: A Capital Event

USS Rochester shipmates and spouses and guests will convene in Washington, DC on October 2-6, 2008 for the 10th reunion of the ship's company. Holiday Inn-Rosslyn in Arlington, Virginia (703-807-2000) will provide lodging and headquarters facilities for the reunion. See center fold for details.

Museum Update

Pat Maxwell, Assistant Librarian, of the USS Rochester Museum, 657 East Avenue, Rochester NY, has notified our Association of the following. This will be a great opportunity for shipmates to assist in its progress for completion.

The Rochester Museum & Science Center (RMSC) Library and Collections Department are preparing a grant proposal to digitize, preserve and create an online virtual exhibit of the very important USS Rochester collection in the care of the RMSC.

If the proposal is accepted, we estimate the entire digitization project will take three years (working on it p/t):

Year 1:

- * Create digital images for all the paper documents, photographs, and objects;
- * Create basic catalog records for each item
- * Input these images and records into the museum's online catalog, LibCat, publically accessible at: <http://libcat.rmssc.org>

Year 2:

- * Complete descriptions of collection items, including an all-out effort to identify people in the photographs;
- * Implement a web page where the public, especially members of the USS Rochester Association, can submit comments and help identify photos;
- * Begin digitizing audio and video recordings (for example, Rochester Ramblers)

Year 3:

- * Create online virtual exhibit based on the current USS Rochester exhibit at the RMSC, but incorporating more material from the collection.

Your organization best knows the uniqueness of the museum's collection, the urgency to make this collection accessible to aging veterans, and the importance of ensuring the story of the USS Rochester be preserved as well as always accessible.

Reunion Registration Desk

The Association still needs additional shipmates to assist with the D.C. Registration Desk. To date we have six (6) shipmates that have volunteered. An hour or two would be a big asset in getting our shipmates registered and signed up for the reunion activities. **THIS VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT IS ACTUALLY VERY SHORT IN DURATION AND WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.** Contact Joe Hill to add your name to the list of those who will help. He can be reached either by phone, U.S. Mail or e-mail.

From The Secondary Bridge, II

Dick Becker, Acting President

The upcoming reunion is a testament to the great camaraderie that has developed over the years with our shipmates. Plans are being made to attend and once again meet with those who we see every two years. Memories are brought to the surface and the sea stories grow each time we meet. The beauty part is that they never get old. This is what makes reunions what they are and why we attend.

The Association is very thankful to all that have worked tirelessly in putting this reunion plan in motion. Looking forward to the time when we enjoy the opportunity of getting together. In the meantime, let the weather get warmer and the sunshine on everyone. See you in October.

Honor The Rock

The following shipmates and wives have donated for the plaque since last publication in newsletter:

David J. DeBoer
John B. Stetson
Morris I. Sharaf*

*Morris donated several months ago but was left off by mistake and for that we apologize.

Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President	Richard Becker, Executive VP
Gordon W. Cargill, 1 st VP	Donald Schnirel, 2 nd VP
Joseph S. Hill, Sec./Treasurer	Frank West, Chaplain
James Young, MAA	Larry Stone, Storekeeper

This newsletter is published quarterly by the USS ROCHESTER Association. The Association's officers encourage questions and comments. You may contact the Editor by writing Gordon Cargill
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Association website:
www.USSRochester.org

TAPS

The following shipmates were reported to have passed away recently. If anyone has additional or different information, please let us know.

Name	ST	Yr	Div	OnBd
John E. Antonino	PA	2007	S-2	53-55
Earl E. Catherman	PA	2007	2 nd	49-50
Frank P. Chowaniec	NJ	2007	T	49-51
Donn D. Dunbar*	OH	2006	E	46-48
William "Bill" Robinson	CA	2007	Ops/PI	58-60
Bobby J. Shaver	KY	2007	X	50-52
Donald L. Tolle	CA	2007	1 st /5 th	50-53

*Plank Owner

Correction: In the November 2007 News Letter TAPS should have been Leonard V Saks.

New Members

We wish to welcome aboard (again) the new USS Rochester Association members:

George T. Dryhurst, CT2, T Division
York, PA, DOB 55-55
Larry H. Ingrum, EM3, E Division
Atwood, IL, DOB 51-55
John W. Richey, SN, OI Division
Honobia, OK, DOB 58-61
William L. Robinson, YN2, X Division
Rosell, GA, DOB 47-49
Dominick Ruggiero, FN, M Division
Bowie, MD, DOB 52-56
Chaland B. Scrivner, BT1, B Division
Redding, CA, DOB 51-55
Frank L. Shramek, GM3, 2nd Division
Seal Beach, CA, DOB 52-56
Harold (Bill) W. Stewart, FT2, Fox Division
Shoals, IN, DOB 53-55

Donation

A \$25.00 check was received by Joe Hill from Mrs. Donna Baroch in the name of her husband Wendell. She also indicated that one of her sons and her are anticipating attending the Reunion in Washington DC. Wendell E. Baroch passed away on 11/6/2004.

A check in the amount of \$25.00 was received from Mrs. Rose Ann Brennan. A note accompanied her check. "I know as an Honorary Member I do not have to pay dues but, I would like to donate the \$25.00 for 2008 in memory of my husband, John D. Brennan." John was in 3rd Division and served on board the Rochester during the years 1948-1949.

Chaplain's Corner

Frank West

Gaining a Right Perspective for 2008

One useful tool for getting a right view of the future is considering where we have been in the past. Many of my perspectives of life were developed while on the Rochester. As I turned 18, joined the Navy, went through boot camp in San Diego and was transferred to the "Roc," all kinds of new things were coming at me. Relationships with people were formed, life's values were developed and these have building blocks that helped sustain me through my years of living.

Now is a new year. I look around for role models as I develop a perspective for the remaining years I have to enjoy life. I remember Caleb, who at the age of 85 said to Joshua, "Give me this mountain". He was referring to Hebron which was inhabited with big people and fenced cities. Think of what Colonel Sanders did with chickens and he didn't start until he was in his 80's.

One of my role models is the Apostle Paul. He has a perspective for the Philippians in his later years of ministry that is very encouraging. He stated, "This is my prayer for you, that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. You need to use your head and test your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush".

As we apply our lives to loving God, loving and helping people while maintaining a perspective of what God can do, the results could be amazing. I look forward to seeing you at the Reunion in Washington in October.

In His service,
Frank West, Chaplain
fawest@jps.net

Membership & Mailing Information

DUES FOR 2008 ARE DUE NOW

Cookeville, TN - The Association runs on its active membership. Dues for 2008 should have been mailed soon after January 1st. There are still a good many shipmates who have not sent in their 2007 dues. Hopefully those who are behind will do it soon. If you are unsure of your status, check the address mailing label of your News Letter. An example: Bill Jones 08 would indicate your dues have been paid up for the year 2008. Joe Hill will be glad to verify your membership status. Joe can be reached at 4011 Ditty Road, Cookeville, TN 38506-7663. Phone: 931-432-4848. E-Mail: NiteCrawl@twlakes.net

Joe will also provide members' addresses and phone numbers upon request.

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES ESPECIALLY YOU SNOW BIRDS WHO MOVE WITH THE WEATHER.

Please let Joe know your new mailing addresses, phone numbers and e-Mail addresses. Notification of changes will keep the mail following on a steady course.

SHIPMATES that have received a copy of the News Letter, and are not members of the USS Rochester Association, is to invite them to the reunion in Washington DC in October. It is also an invitation to join the USS Rochester Association and keep informed of what your shipmates are doing and information on what the Association is doing. Please complete the Membership Application, included with the News Letter, and mail to Joe Hill

Ship's Store

Larry & Mary Stone

Happy New Year and Happy Valentine's Day from your Ship's Store

Your Ship's Store is open and ready for business with fresh stock. We apologize for some of the late deliveries in late '07. We are now ready to ship your orders upon receipt. Please note the increase of shipping costs due to USPS rate hikes.

We still have ample planks available for shipping. The new B-B-Q Aprons are ready for the cook-out season which is upon us, at least some of us. We have plenty of coffee cups at the bargain price of \$12, shipping included. This is also close to Windbreaker weather. And the polo shirts are always good, no matter the season.

We had a telephone conference with the Branson Reunion book printer this morning, Jan. 16th. We expect it to be printed by January 25th and mailed out VERY shortly thereafter. Finally.

Looking forward to seeing you in D.C.,

Larry & Mary Stone
Ship's Storekeeper

The Lone Sailor

Our Treasurer Joe Hill reminded me of the website www.lonesailor.org. The bronze statue is that of a 25 year old, second class petty officer who has seasoned as a seagoing veteran. He depicts all who have joined the Navy and has done it all. Everything from scrubbing decks, engine room, operations, firing weapons, mess cooking, liberty, missionary, and a good will ambassador, to name a few of his duties.

This statue is located at the amphitheater of the Naval Memorial. This is the same location that the dedication ceremony of the USS Rochester Memorial Plaque on the Commemorative Wall will take place.

If you have not entered your name into the "lone sailor's" database, now is a good time to pull up the website, www.lonesailor.org. Then click onto THE NAVY LOG and enter your personal information. This is a permanent National Registry of Sea Service. There is no cost to enroll. It is a great place for individuals, family members or friends to look up shipmates.

Helpful Websites

Its official, DD-214's are NOW Online. One of our shipmates, Frank Dayak, has requested that this information be passed on to those who may need help. A sample of the information available is: service record, personnel file, medals, awards, benefits, medical, etc.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.



*Submitted as a request from shipmate
Robert Cosgrove*

Old Sailors sit and chew the fat
'bout how things use to be,
of the things they've seen
and places they've been"
when they ventured out to sea.

They remember friends from long ago
and the times they had back then,
of the money they've spilled
and the beer they've swilled
in their days as sailing men.

Their lives are lived in days gone by,
with thoughts that forever last,
of Dixie cup hats and bell bottom blues,
And the good times in their past.

They recall long nights
with a moon so bright
far out on a lonely sea,
and thoughts they had
as youthful lads
When their lives were unbridled and free.

They know so well how their hearts would swell
when the flag fluttered proud and free,
and the stars and stripes made such beautiful sights
as they plowed through an angry sea.

They talk of the bread
Ole Cookie would bake
and the shrill of the bo'sun's pipe
and how the salt spray
fell like sparks out of hell
when a storm struck in the night.

They remember mates already gone
who forever hold a spot
in the stories of old when sailors were bold
and lubbers a pitiful lot.

They rode their ships through many a storm
when the sea was showing its might,
and the mighty waves might be digging their
graves
as they sailed on through the night.

They speak of nights in a bawdy house
somewhere on a foreign shore,
and the beer they'd downed
as they gathered round
cracking jokes with a busty whore.

Their sailing days are gone away,
never more will they cross the brow,
but they have no regrets
for they know they've been blessed
cause they honored their sacred vow.

Their numbers grow less with each passing day
as their chits in this life are called,
but they have nothing to lose
for they've paid their dues
and they'll sail with their shipmates again.

I've heard them say
before getting underway
that there is still some sailing to do,
and they'll exclaim with a grin
that their ship has come in,
and the Lord is commanding the crew.

